

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) from Powell WO/02/087406. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 from Powell in view of Pease U.S. Patent No. 1,528,026.

Applicant appreciates in the "Response to Arguments" portion of the Office Action that the previous Office Action had cited the wrong section of Powell in connection with the rejection of claim 1. Applicant acknowledges that the Office meant to state that claim 1 is anticipated by Powell because Powell discloses a hand-utility interface for use in protecting a user's hand during utility tasks, citing to page 20, third full paragraph, of Powell. The Office takes the position that this passage of Powell teaches "a foamed block body."

Applicant respectfully points out that this third full paragraph on page 20 of Powell discloses that it is only the **underside base** (101) of the glove (102) that is formed from flexible but resilient material which could be foam. This is not a disclosure of a foamed block body. The base (101) is shown, for example, in FIG. 6a, FIG. 6b and FIG. 6c. As noted on page 21, second full paragraph of Powell, the base (101) is taught as being a component of the glove (102) that "is designed to cover at least that part of a user's palm that can be comfortably reached by the user's fingers once they are curled over." Thus, to the extent that the underside base (101) is

taught by Powell as being a foam material, same is taught as being that which **covers the user's palm when in use**. This does not teach or disclose a full foamed block body (including a plurality of finger-receiving channels defined therein). Instead, the base (101) of the Powell glove (102) is the glove portion that can be comfortably reached by the user's fingers when they are curled over.

Furthermore, it is noted from the second full paragraph on page 8 of Powell that "the glove is made from a semi-rigid or rigid material." This is further disclosed by Powell in the embodiment shown in FIG. 1 and FIG. 2 which, according to the first full paragraph on page 15 of Powell, is a glove "moulded from mildly flexible plastics." There is no suggestion that the body of the glove could be a block made from foam or have a block form.

Concerning the response by the Office to "applicant's second argument," applicant appreciates that Pease is cited as showing a sponge for cleaning that is symmetrical in form. The fact remains that Pease does not remove the deficiencies of Powell.

With reference to the Examiner's response to "applicant's third argument" as noted on page 3 of the Response to Arguments portion of the Office Action, applicant does not claim non-resilient fingers of the type taught by Powell. Such Powell fingers do not satisfy the "snugly received" feature of

applicant's claim 1. Applicant's feature is not satisfied during use by a user of the Powell device who has fingers that are large enough so as to be snugly received. Instead, applicant explicitly claims that the foamed block body has a plurality of finger-receiving channels defined therein. Thus, as being part of the foamed block body, the plurality of finger-receiving channels also are made of a foam. This is what imparts the feature of claim 1 that the finger-receiving channels snugly receive the fingers of the user. This is described, for example, at paragraph [0176] of applicant's published application. Powell clearly fails to disclose this important function that is achieved by the claimed feature that applicant's foamed block body has a plurality of finger-receiving channels defined therein that snugly receive the fingers of the user's hand when in use. Claim 1 is not anticipated by Powell.

Each of remaining claims 2, 3, 4, 6 and 9 are dependent upon claim 1, and they likewise are not anticipated by Powell due at least to their dependency upon claim 1.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection from Powell are respectfully requested.

Concerning the §103 rejection of claim 7, as previously noted, Pease does not remove the above-discussed deficiencies of Powell. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection likewise are respectfully requested.

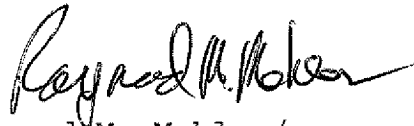
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Applicant has made an earnest endeavor to place this application into condition for allowance, and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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